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1. (Amended) A method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a specific air flow direction and lung volume;

suspending patient ventilation at said specific air flow direction and lung volume utilizing an apparatus comprising a ventilator assembly having a first selectively operable valve adapted to control inhalation of the patient and a second selectively operable valve adapted to control exhalation of the patient; and

administering radiation therapy during the suspension of patient ventilation.

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3. (Amended) The method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation according to Claim 1, the method including the step of utilizing a computer control to provide a measure of the cyclical expiration and inhalation cycle of the patient.

4. (Amended) The method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation according to Claim 2, the method including the step of closing said first and said second selectively operable valves to suspend the patient's breathing at a desired point.

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6. (Amended) The method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation according to Claim 1, the method including repeating said step of suspending patient ventilation at said specific air flow direction and lung volume as necessary to administer repeated radiation doses.

7. (Amended) The method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation according to Claim 1, the method including undertaking CT planning and treatment at a reproducible ventilatory phase.

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cont  
8. (Amended) The method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation according to Claim 1, the method including the step of applying to the patient a mechanical device for attachment to the patient's nose for temporarily halting air passage therethrough.

9. (Amended) The method for delivering radiation therapy to a patient during suspended ventilation according to Claim 1, the method including the steps of acquiring CT scans at different respiratory phases.

10. (Amended) A method for establishing breath-holding reproducibility in a patient for the delivery of radiation therapy, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a lung volume;

suspending patient ventilation at said lung volume utilizing an apparatus comprising a ventilator assembly having a first selectively operable valve adapted to control inhalation of the patient and a second selectively operable valve adapted to control exhalation of the patient; and

administering radiation therapy during the suspension of patient ventilation.

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12 (Amended) The method for establishing breath-holding reproducibility in a patient for the delivery of radiation therapy according to Claim 11, the method including the step of closing said first and said second selectively operable valves to

B4 cont suspend the patient's breathing at a desired point.

Sub C3 B5  
15. (Amended) An apparatus for suspending ventilation in a patient and delivering radiation therapy to the patient during suspended ventilation, the apparatus comprising:

an apparatus for identifying a specific air flow direction and lung volume of the patient;

an apparatus for suspending patient ventilation at said specific air flow direction and lung volume, said apparatus for suspending patient ventilation including a ventilator assembly having a first selectively operable valve adapted to control inhalation of the patient and a second selectively operable valve adapted to control exhalation of the patient; and

an apparatus for administering radiation therapy during the suspension of patient ventilation.

Please add new Claims 21 and 22 as follows:

Sub C17  
21. (New) An apparatus for suspending ventilation of Claim 15, wherein said first and second selectively operable valves are adapted to operate independent of each other.

22. (New) An apparatus for suspending ventilation in a patient for the delivery of radiation therapy to the patient, the apparatus comprising:

a ventilator assembly comprising first and second valves, said first valve adapted to control inhalation of the patient and said second valve adapted to control exhalation